

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims below replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims:

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1           1.     (Currently ~~Amended~~) Apparatus for use in a telephony system, comprising:  
2                 a digital interface for ~~communicating~~ connection with a stimulus device  
3     telephone;  
4                 a packet interface for communicating with a packet-based network; and  
5                 a controller to receive stimulus control information from the digital interface and  
6     to encapsulate the stimulus control information into one or more packets for transmission over  
7     the packet-based network through the packet interface.

1           2.     (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the controller encapsulates the  
2     stimulus control information into an Internet Protocol packet.

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1           3.     (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the digital interface includes a  
2     UART interface.

1           4.     (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the digital interface includes a time  
2     compression multiplex interface.

1           5.     (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the controller adds a destination  
2     address of a telephone switch system into the one or more packets.

1           6.     (Currently ~~Amended~~) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the controller adds a  
2     destination address of a second stimulus telephone into the one or more packets.

1           7.     (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the stimulus control information is  
2     according to a first stimulus language, and wherein the stimulus control information remains in  
3     the first stimulus language after encapsulation.

1           8.     (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the controller encapsulates the  
2 stimulus control information without translating the stimulus control information into a different  
3 form.

1           9.     (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the controller encapsulates the  
2 stimulus control information by adding header information according to a network protocol.

1           10.    (Original) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the network protocol header  
2 information includes an Internet Protocol header.

1           11.    (Original) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the controller adds further header  
2 information according to a transport protocol.

1           12.    (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the further header information  
2 includes a User Datagram Protocol header.

1           13.    (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the controller also scrambles the  
2 stimulus message before encapsulation.

1           14.    (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the controller encrypts the one or  
2 more packets.

1           15.    (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a receiver to receive the  
2 one or more packets, the receiver including an element to decapsulate the one or more packets to  
3 extract the stimulus control information.

1           16.    (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the receiver is associated with a  
2 second stimulus device, and wherein the extracted stimulus control information is in a native  
3 stimulus language of the second stimulus device.

1           17.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the stimulus control  
2 information includes at least one of hook state information and key press event information, the  
3 controller to encapsulate the at least one of the hook state information and key press event  
4 information into the one or more packets.

1           18.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the stimulus control  
2 information includes a command selected from the group consisting of a handset volume control  
3 command, a handset connect/disconnect command, and a ringer activation command, the  
4 controller to encapsulate the command selected from the group consisting of the handset volume  
5 control command, the handset connect/disconnect command, and the ringer activation command.

1           ~~19.~~   (~~Cancelled~~)

1           20.   (Currently ~~Amended~~) A method for use in a telephony system, comprising:  
2               communicating stimulus control information with a stimulus telephone device  
3 through a first interface connected to the stimulus telephone, and packet information with a  
4 packet-based network through a packet interface;  
5               encapsulating stimulus control information received from the first interface; and  
6               transmitting the encapsulated stimulus control information as at least one packet  
7 to the packet interface.

1           21.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, further comprising:  
2               decapsulating one or more packets received from the packet interface and  
3 containing stimulus control information; and  
4               transmitting the stimulus control information of the decapsulated one or more  
5 packets to the first interface.

1           22.   (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the stimulus control information is in  
2   a native stimulus language, and wherein encapsulating the stimulus control information includes  
3   inserting the stimulus control information in its native stimulus language into a payload of the at  
4   least one packet.

1           23.   (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein encapsulating the stimulus control  
2   information includes adding a network protocol header to the stimulus control information.

1           24.   (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein encapsulating the stimulus control  
2   information includes adding an Internet Protocol header.

1           25.   (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein encapsulating the stimulus control  
2   information further includes adding a User Datagram Protocol header.

1           26.   (Original) The method of claim 20, further comprising scrambling the stimulus  
2   control information before encapsulating.

1           27.   (Original) The method of claim 20, further comprising encrypting the at least one  
2   packet.

1           28.   (~~Currently Amended~~) An article including one or more machine-readable storage  
2   media containing instructions for call control in a telephony system, the instructions when  
3   executed causing a device to:  
4               receive data according to a stimulus protocol from a first interface connected to a  
5   stimulus telephone;  
6               encapsulate the data into one or more packets; and  
7               communicate the one or more packets to a packet-based data network.

1           29.   (Original) The article of claim 28, wherein the one or more storage media contain  
2 instructions that when executed causes the device to:

3                   receive a packet containing data according to the stimulus protocol;  
4                   decapsulate the packet; and  
5                   communicate the data according to the stimulus protocol to the first interface.

1           30.   (~~Currently Amended~~) A data signal embodied in a carrier wave and containing  
2 instructions for call control in a telephony system, the instructions when executed causing a  
3 device to:

4                   receive at least one packet containing a stimulus message according to a first  
5 language;  
6                   decapsulate the at least one packet to extract the stimulus message according to  
7 the first language; and  
8                   send the stimulus message according to the first language to a first interface  
9 connected to a stimulus ~~device~~ telephone.

1           31.   (~~Currently Amended~~) The data signal of claim 30, further containing instructions  
2 that when executed causes ~~[[a]]~~ the device to:

3                   receive a stimulus message according to the first language through the first  
4 interface connected to ~~from~~ the stimulus ~~device~~ telephone; and  
5                   encapsulate the stimulus message according to a first language into at least one  
6 packet.

1           32.   (~~Cancelled~~)

1           ~~33.~~   (~~Cancelled~~)

1           34. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for use in a telephony system, comprising:  
2           means for receiving a stimulus message through a first interface connected to  
3 ~~from~~ a stimulus ~~device~~ telephone;  
4           means for encapsulating the stimulus message into at least one packet; and  
5           means for transmitting the at least one packet to a packet-based network.

1           35. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising an interface  
2 card adapted to be inserted into a slot of the stimulus ~~device~~ telephone, the interface card  
3 comprising the digital interface, the packet interface, and the controller.

1           36. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the digital interface is  
2 adapted to exchange the stimulus control information with the stimulus ~~device~~ telephone.

1           37. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the stimulus control  
2 information contains a command according to a stimulus protocol selected from the group  
3 consisting of off-hook, on-hook, handset volume control, handset connect, and handset  
4 disconnect, the controller to encapsulate the command selected from the group consisting of off-  
5 hook, on-hook, handset volume control, handset connect, and handset disconnect in the one or  
6 more packets.

1           38. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a receiver to  
2 receive one or more inbound packets containing inbound stimulus control information, the  
3 controller to decapsulate the one or more inbound packets to extract the inbound stimulus control  
4 information.

1           39. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein each of the one or  
2 more inbound packets contains a User Datagram Protocol (UDP) port number, the controller to  
3 determine from the UDP port number whether the corresponding inbound packet contains voice  
4 data or stimulus control information.

1           40.    (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20, further comprising providing an  
2 interface card to be inserted into a slot of the stimulus device telephone, the interface card having  
3 the first interface and the packet interface,  
4                wherein encapsulating the stimulus control information and transmitting the  
5 encapsulated stimulus control information and transmitting the encapsulated stimulus control  
6 information is performed by the interface card.

1           41.    (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein encapsulating the  
2 stimulus control information comprises encapsulating a command according to a stimulus  
3 protocol selected from the group consisting of off-hook, on-hook, handset volume control,  
4 handset connect, and handset disconnect.

1           42.    (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein each of the received one  
2 or more packets contains a User Datagram Protocol (UDP) port number, the method further  
3 comprising determining from the UDP port number whether the corresponding received packet  
4 contains voice data or stimulus control information.

1           43.    (Previously Presented) The article of claim 28, wherein encapsulating the data  
2 according to the stimulus protocol comprises encapsulating one of an off-hook stimulus  
3 command, on-hook stimulus command, handset volume control stimulus command, handset  
4 connect stimulus command, and handset disconnect stimulus command.

1           44.    (Previously Presented) The data signal of claim 30, wherein receiving the at least  
2 one packet containing the stimulus message comprises receiving the at least one packet  
3 containing stimulus message containing at least a command selected from the group consisting  
4 of off-hook, on-hook, handset volume control, handset connect, and handset disconnect.

1           45.    (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the stimulus message  
2 contains at least a command selected from the group consisting of off-hook, on-hook, handset

3 volume control, handset connect, and handset disconnect, the means for encapsulating to  
4 encapsulate the command selected from the group consisting of off-hook, on-hook, handset  
5 volume control, handset connect and handset disconnect.

1 46. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 34, further comprising:  
2 means for decapsulating the at least one packet received from the packet-based  
3 network and containing the stimulus message.

1 47. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 34, further comprising means for  
2 encrypting the at least one packet.

1 48. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 34, further comprising means for  
2 scrambling the stimulus message before encapsulating.

1 49. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the interface card is  
2 adapted to be inserted into a slot of a telephone.

1 50. (~~Currently Amended~~) The method of claim 40, wherein providing the interface  
2 card comprises inserting the interface card into a slot of [[a]] the stimulus telephone.

1 51. (~~New~~) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the digital interface is adapted to  
2 communicate with the stimulus telephone through an input/output port of the stimulus telephone.

1 52. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein communicating the stimulus control  
2 information comprises communicating the stimulus control information through the interface and  
3 an input/output port of the stimulus telephone.



1           53.   (New) The article of claim 28, wherein receiving the data according to the  
2 stimulus protocol comprises receiving the data according to the stimulus protocol through the  
3 first interface and an input/output port of the stimulus telephone.

1           54.   (New) The data signal of claim 30, wherein sending the stimulus message  
2 comprises sending the stimulus message to the first interface and an input/output port of the  
3 stimulus telephone.

1           55.   (New) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein receiving means is for receiving the  
2 stimulus message through the first interface and an input/output port of the stimulus telephone.

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